

NISTIR 6774

Workshop On Fire Testing Measurement Needs: Proceedings

William Grosshandler
(Editor)



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National Institute of Standards and Technology
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Building and Fire Research Laboratory

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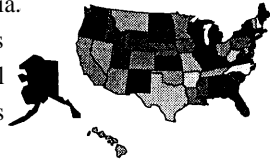
NASFM's Mission

- To reduce deaths, injury, property loss, and environmental damage caused by fire in the United States.
- To provide assistance and support to state fire marshals.



Who is NASFM?

- Principal members are the most senior fire officials in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- Associate members
- President's Council
- Advocate members



The Role of State Fire Marshals

- Investigate fires and crimes related to fires
- Apprehend arsonists
- Adopt & enforce fire safety codes
- Inspect buildings for hazards
- Review construction plans
- Manage fire incident data systems

The Role of State Fire Marshals

- Administer public fire education programs
- Certify fire investigators & fire inspectors
- Manage fire fighter training academies & training programs
- Provide policy recommendations to governors and state legislatures

NASFM Science Advisory Committee

- International experts on fire science, fire protection engineering, toxicology and consumer product safety
- Provides technical advice for state fire marshals and for the Association
- Recommendations from SAC are incorporated into legislative policy

Product Testing & Certification

- Fire officials and the general public are highly dependent upon independent testing, listing and certification services to ensure the safety of consumer products and building construction materials.
- Testing must reflect real-world scenarios

Product Standards

- Must be based on good science
- Standards development process must be transparent
- Push for higher levels of safety, rather than lower
- Modify products to meet higher standards

Legal & Ethical Obligations

- Standards making bodies and testing organizations perform an essential service for government and the public.
- As a “quasi-governmental” organization, must perform to a high standard of openness, transparency, and ethics.

The Challenge

- To establish an integrated, national system for oversight and accreditation of testing laboratories.
- To educate fire and building officials so that they have a comprehensive understanding of testing standards, certification programs, and laboratory accreditation.
- In the effort to respond to issues such as globalization, environmental concerns, and competition, do not sacrifice high levels of fire safety in consumer products and building construction materials.

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